



# Larry Gossett

Metropolitan King County Council member

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## The Year in Review

Many Successes and Challenges Ahead

The year 2001 has been exciting and challenging for me as your representative on the Metropolitan King County Council. I have been able to achieve many of the goals our office set out to accomplish at the beginning of this year. One of my major goals was to meet with a wider range of the organized community councils and community-based organizations that have the

*"I have worked to get the pulse of residents in neighborhoods throughout District Ten"*

pulse of residents in neighborhoods throughout District Ten. My aim was to learn from and share with members of these organizations the main responsibilities of County government

I learned a lot at these meetings. People talked with me about the need for the community to provide mentoring, jobs, and other support services to ex-offenders returning to the Central Area from prison. I listened to concerns of Beacon Hill residents who favored and/or had concerns about the homeless encampment located at El Centro de la Raza. I heard about the impact of aircraft noise on home owners in the Leschi community and Somali kids living in the Yesler Terrace who

desire more bilingual and tutoring help in school. I also listened as citizens talked about the need for more police protection and for more housing for low-income artists in the Pioneer Square Community.

In the International District, activists spoke out for additional senior housing and bilingual counseling for Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees.

Residents of the Leschi and Miller Community Councils called for better crime control activity on Jackson and Madison streets.

I met with the refugee and immigrant community on December 13<sup>th</sup>. I invited various leaders of these groups to meet and talk about the issues which have affected them since September 11<sup>th</sup>. Many of the representatives of Muslim immigrants attending this meeting said their people are quite fearful about going out in public since 9/11, because of the harassment they have received.

Concerned citizens in every community mentioned the need for more recreational activities

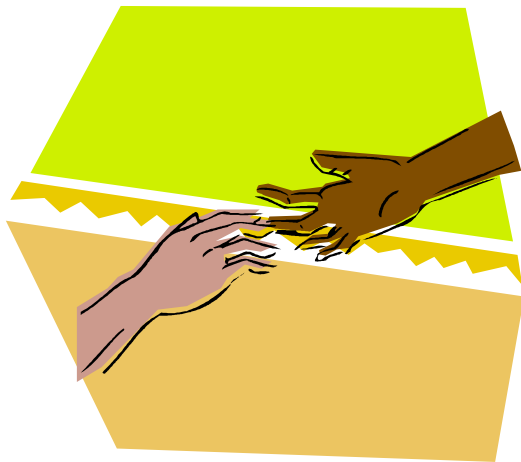
for youth throughout our District.

I was generally very frank with constituents about my concern that King County is in jeopardy of becoming a government that can only afford to cover its criminal justice expenditures. I described how the percentage of the entire King county general revenue budget going to support criminal justice agencies (police, courts, jails, prosecutor's office) will rise from 65% (2001) to 68% next year (2002).

I contrasted that with figures which show how the general revenue available to support human service programs shrank from 7% of the budget (2001) to 5% (2002).

In meetings with constituents next year, I hope to explore ways King County might create a better balance between funding going to public safety and health and human services agencies. I genuinely believe that if we create a healthier living environment for the poor, the addicted, the mentally ill and the socially alienated, we will establish a firmer foundation for maintaining public safety.

Let me know what you think!  
My E-mail address is:  
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## King County Correctional Facility Community Relations Board

King County has a number of boards and commissions that recruit local residents to advise elected officials on issues of concern to our government. One important board is the King County Correctional Facility (KCCF) Community Relations Board.

This board, formed in 1989 under an agreement between King County and the City of Seattle, is charged with monitoring, reviewing, and making recommendations to the KCCF administration and/or County elected officials on jail policies that affect the community. The board is now trying to re-establish relations with the neighborhoods that surround the downtown jail, by identifying issues of concern to these communities.

The KCCF Community Relations Board will meet on March 15, 2002 to determine its work for the year. Important issues that may be taken up include the impact of the jail on adjacent neighborhoods, budget cuts and their impact on inmate care and services, as well as updating the Board's mission statement.

For more information, contact Board member Juan Bocanegra at (206) 461-3865. Board meetings are open to the public and are scheduled for March 15,

June 21, September 20, and December 6, 2002. Meetings are usually held at 11:30 a.m. at the downtown King County Correctional Facility.

### September 11, 2001

There was near universal shock and grief over the insane terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, against the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The viciousness of this terrorist act, which led to the death of thousands of innocent people, has created strong support for an international approach to eradicating terrorism and the problems that sometimes give rise to it.

I support the idea of international cooperation and support in eliminating the scourge of terrorism, whether it is state-sponsored or initiated by some small, secretive cell of people bent on using terror as an "irrational" strategy to justify or support a particular cause. But the fight against it, I believe, must be carried out in a manner that protects the democratic



*The tragic events of September 11 have created strong support for an international approach to eradicating terrorism and for creating world peace.*

liberties and freedoms guaranteed to us in the U.S. Constitution.

I am very interested in finding out how you feel about some of the anti-terrorist methods being adopted by the Bush Administration, especially those which the President's Attorney General, John Ashcroft, has called for— like giving the Justice Department increased wire tapping authority, and holding military rather than civilian trials for suspected terrorists. (See enclosed survey)

# Larry Gossett Sponsors Key Ordinances

Three County ordinances I sponsored this year are particularly important to the residents of King County.

**Ordinance 2001-0270** ensures better accountability from all county personnel administrators, establishes more effective standards for hiring and promoting employees and it strengthens fiscal accountability as it relates to special duty and term limited employment. This ordinance passed out of our Management, Labor and Customer Services Committee, in

response to a Fall 2000 audit review of the office of Human Resources Management (OHRM).

**Ordinance 2001-0228** adopts the 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. This sets the policy direction for solid waste management and capital improvements in the County's solid waste system for the next six years. It also establishes a guide post for managing the region's garbage and recycling programs over the next 20 years. We were able to pass it

with the help of my fellow committee members on the Regional Policy and Utilities & Technology committees.

**Ordinance 2001-0274** extends King County's Affirmative Action Plan. I was very happy to lead the effort in passing a plan which allows our government to continue to establish goals for the hiring of minorities and women. I also worked hard on getting the Council and the Executive to implement the BOOST program. This program is designed to increase contracting opportunities in King County for small disadvantaged businesses, which include women and minority business enterprises.

## Celebrate Dr. King's Birthday in Martin Luther King, Jr. County



The first Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration was held in 1983 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington. In 1986, King County was renamed for Martin Luther King by the Metropolitan King County Council, in a motion sponsored by then-Councilmembers Ron Sims and Bruce Laing. A year later, Empire Way was renamed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Since its inception, this annual March and Rally has

take place on Monday, January 21, 2002. The day will begin at Garfield High School, with workshops on various social issues from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., followed by a rally from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. A march to the Federal Building will commence after the rally.

I will once again serve as Chairman of this annual community tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event is organized each year by the Martin Luther

become one of the largest events nationwide commemorating Dr. King's birthday.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration will

King, Jr., Organizing Committee.

Organizers this year have chosen to focus on jobs, justice, and peace, because these key issues were the centerpiece of Dr. King's life and work. Therefore, the theme for this year's community tribute in honor of Dr. King is "JOBS, JUSTICE, PEACE: In the Aftermath of 9/11." The horror of September 11 and the war in Afghanistan have only served to highlight the continued struggle of peoples in the U.S. and throughout the world for justice and peace.

Under this theme, thousands of people, from every part of the county will come together at Garfield High School. Everyone in District 10 is encouraged to pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy by participating in this grand affair.

### Are you reaching for the mountaintop?

King County's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration will be held on January 17, 2002 at the Paramount Theater from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Keynote speaker will be Tim Wise, author of "Little White Lies."

# Are You Still In My District?

Every ten years, the King County Council goes through a redistricting process, and each of the 13 Council districts is redrawn to reflect the population changes that have occurred over the preceeding years. As a result, District Ten was partially moved south and west. While I will generally represent the same constituents and neighborhoods (Central Area,

Capitol Hill, Beacon Hill), there are some areas that are no longer located in my district. The new districts are currently in effect. If you are unsure of whether the redistricting affects your address, please visit the County's redistricting website at [www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/redistricting](http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/redistricting).

**For more information on the 2001 Council Redistricting Project, visit the County's redistricting web site at:**

**[www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/redistricting](http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/redistricting)**

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## Survey Questions

Please answer the following questions so that I may better serve you. When completed, simply fold according to the directions on the reverse -- no postage required.

1. I am the new chair of the Law, Justice, and Human Services Committee. I would like to know what you think are the main crime problems existing in your neighborhood. What do you feel can be done about these problems by County government officials?

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2. Attorney General John Ashcroft has said, in response to the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, that he plans to use new powers granted to him by Congress, such as interviewing 6,000 Arab males who have arrived in the country during the last few years on student or temporary visas. Mark the box that best reflects your opinion of this strategy.

(a) \_\_\_ Very Fair      (b) \_\_\_ Fair      (c) \_\_\_ UnFair      (d) \_\_\_ Other

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Initiative 747 passed in November. Essentially, its passage means local governments like King County and the City of Seattle, starting in 2002, can no longer raise property or other taxes, more than 1% per year. Do you feel this too severely limits the ability of government to raise revenue needed to solve serious problems, like transportation, education and so on?

Which of these strategies, would you most favor the government pursuing if more tax dollars are required to respond to critical public needs in the future? **PICK ONLY ONE:**

- (a) \_\_\_ Ask the voters to okay a tax increase to address the problem.  
(b) \_\_\_ Cut existing services and use the savings to fund the higher priority needs.  
(c) \_\_\_ Do away with property taxes and replace it with a graduated State Income Tax (where the wealthy give a higher percentage of their income for taxes than do workers or the poor).  
(d) \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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(4) As your elected representative, what other issues should I be paying attention to?

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**Optional:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please refold with the below panel showing and drop in the mail. **No** postage necessary.



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